Application No.: 10/752,501

Amendment dated February 3, 2006

Response to Office Action dated November 3, 2005

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on November 3, 2005. In order

Docket No.: 4710-0105P

to advance prosecution, claims 1-6 are cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 7 is amended

consistent with the disclosure to more explicitly recite the vacuum distillation step therein. New

claim 8 corresponds to former claim 4. New claim 9 corresponds to former claim 6. Entry of

this Amendment – in order to place the application into condition for allowance or into better

condition for appeal - is respectfully solicited. With this Amendment, claims 7-9 are pending in

the application.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,288,831

(Ichinohe et al.). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ichinohe et al. in view of US 4,150,048 (Schilling). Both of these rejections are rendered moot

by the cancellation of claims 3 and 4.

Claims 1 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US

5,288,831 (Ichinohe et al.). The Ichinohe et al. reference teaches treating unreacted propenyl

ether polyether with water, an aqueous solution of pH no greater than 7, or an acidic substance

such as a mineral acid, an organic acid, or a Lewis acid, preferably with the application of heat,

until all of the residual propenyl ether polyether is decomposed, and then removing

propionaldehyde product from the remaining reaction mixture. Column 4, lines 31-36. In

contrast, the method of the present invention does not pre-treat unreacted polyether, but simply

distills it off. Therefore, the present method is much simpler than is that taught by the Ichinohe

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et al. reference. Moreover, the composition produced by the method of the present invention is

cleaner than the composition produced by the reference method, because in the present invention

there is no possibility of inclusion of contaminants such as chloride ions used in the Ichinohe et

al. process. Accordingly, the composition produced by the present method is particularly

suitable for use as a solvent of an electrolytic solution, where ionic impurities should not be

present. This advantage is not suggested by the Ichinohe et al. disclosure, because that

disclosure is concerned only with the removal of odor for cosmetic applications. Clearly, the

present invention is both novel and unobvious with respect to the disclosure of Ichinohe et al.

If any questions arise regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's

representative, Richard Gallagher (Reg. No. 28,781) at (703) 205-8008.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please

charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2448, under Order No. 4710-0105P from which the

undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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